

TO: CLERK MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

The proposed Amendment of Rule 7.3 of the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct is essential for the protection of survivors of domestic and sexual abuse.

When filing a Complaint for Divorce the survivor puts themselves in great danger. Studies show that the survivor is most at risk when they attempt to leave the abusive relationship. It is essential for their Safety Plan that they control when the abuser learns about the Complaint for Divorce so that the survivor can protect themselves.

Under the current Rule, the abuser may learn about the divorce proceedings prematurely because of contact from an attorney soliciting business. This situation would be corrected by the proposed Amendment.

This situation is similar to a statutory problem in MCL 28.422b which requires notification of a gun licensee when their gun ownership rights might be affected by a court order or disposition. This statute was amended in 2002. Before the amendment, respondents to Personal Protection Orders received notices prior to being served with the PPO thus endangering the petitioner. The amendment now requires the notification to be sent after the respondent has been served with the PPO.

The safety of victims of abuse is paramount to the desire to solicit business. I ask the Court to adopt this proposed Amendment to the Rule.

Sincerely,

/s/ Hon. Richard Halloran

Wayne County Circuit Court